

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of)
)
 ALAN F. SAVICKI) Group Art Unit: 3677
)
 Serial No. 09/979,527) Examiner: Marcus Menezes
)
 Filed: November 19, 2001)
)
 Title: CLOSURE DEVICE)

Oakland, California 94623
June 14, 2006

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

AMENDMENT

Dear Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated March 14, 2006, currently due June 14 , 2006, please enter the following amendments.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 16 of this paper.

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Cancel)

2. (Currently Amended) The invention as in claim ~~418~~, wherein the slider member includes a second notch which is adapted to engage a second protrusion formed on one of the interlocking fastening strips at a second end thereof to obstruct movement of the slider member beyond said second end.

3. (Currently Amended) The invention set forth in claim ~~418~~, wherein the protrusion includes opposed exterior sides which are adapted to become wedged between opposed interior sides of the notch to restrict disengagement of the slider member from the interlocking fastening strip when the slider member is moved toward the first end thereof.

4. (Currently Amended) The invention set forth in claim ~~418~~, wherein the notch of the slider member is formed in the intermediate body portion thereof.

5-14. (Cancel)

15. (Currently Amended) The invention set forth in claim ~~4418~~, wherein the opposed interior sides of the notch is substantially parallel with respect to each other.

16. (Currently Amended) The invention set forth in claim ~~4418~~, wherein the intermediate portion and the opposed interior sides of the notch are substantially planar.

17. (Currently Amended) The invention set forth in claim 1418, wherein the intermediate portion and the opposed interior sides of the notch have generally rectangular configurations.

18. (Currently Amended) A closure device comprising:
interlocking fastening strips having first and second ends; and
a slider member movably installed upon the interlocking fastening strips, the
slider member facilitating the occlusion of the interlocking fastening strips when moved
towards the first end thereof, the slider member having a pair of spaced-apart side walls
which are positioned on opposite sides of the interlocking fastening strips, an
intermediate body portion between the side walls which is positioned upon the
interlocking fastening strips, and a notch formed therein which is adapted to engage a
cooperating protrusion formed on one of the interlocking fastening strips at the first end
thereof to obstruct movement of the slider member beyond said first end;
wherein the notch has a generally rectangular configuration and a pair of opposed
interior sides and an intermediate portion therebetween The invention set forth in claim
14, wherein the intermediate portion and the opposed interior sides of the notch converge along substantially vertical internal corners.

19. (Currently Amended) The invention set forth in claim 1418, wherein the intermediate portion of the notch includes substantially vertical external corners.

20. (Cancel)

21. (Cancel)

22. A closure device comprising:
interlocking fastening strips having first and second ends; and

a slider member movably installed upon the interlocking fastening strips, the slider member facilitating the occlusion of the interlocking fastening strips when moved towards the first end thereof, the slider member having a pair of spaced-apart side walls which are positioned on opposite sides of the interlocking fastening strips, an intermediate body portion between the side walls which is positioned upon the interlocking fastening strips, and a notch formed therein which is adapted to engage a cooperating protrusion formed on one of the interlocking fastening strips at the first end thereof to obstruct movement of the slider member beyond said first end;

wherein the protrusion is substantially planar and has a pair of opposed exterior sides and an edge portion therebetween The invention set forth in claim 21, wherein the edge portion of the protrusion is inclined with respect to the interlocking fastening strip.

23. (Original) The invention set forth in claim 22, wherein the edge portion of the protrusion slopes upwardly and outwardly with respect to the interlocking fastening strip.

24. (Currently Amended) The invention set forth in claim 2422, wherein the opposed exterior sides of the protrusion are substantially parallel with respect to each other.

25. (Currently Amended) The invention set forth in claim 2422, wherein the opposed exterior sides of the protrusion are generally triangular in configuration.

26. (Cancel)

27. (Cancel)

28. (Currently Amended) The invention set forth in claim 2629, wherein the opposed exterior sides of the protrusion flare outwardly with respect to each other and the interlocking fastening strip.

29. A closure device comprising:
interlocking fastening strips having first and second ends; and
a slider member movably installed upon the interlocking fastening strips, the
slider member facilitating the occlusion of the interlocking fastening strips when moved
towards the first end thereof, the slider member having a pair of spaced-apart side walls
which are positioned on opposite sides of the interlocking fastening strips, an
intermediate body portion between the side walls which is positioned upon the
interlocking fastening strips, and a notch formed therein which is adapted to engage a
cooperating protrusion formed on one of the interlocking fastening strips at the first end
thereof to obstruct movement of the slider member beyond said first end;
wherein the protrusion formed on the interlocking fastening strip has a generally
wedge-shaped configuration and a pair of opposed exterior sides and an edge portion
therebetween. The invention set forth in claim 27, wherein the edge portion of the
protrusion slopes upwardly and outwardly with respect to the interlocking fastening strip.

30. (Cancel)

31. (Currently Amended) The invention as in claim 3051 wherein the slider member includes a second notch which is adapted to engage a second protrusion formed on one of the interlocking fastening strips at a second end thereof to obstruct movement of the slider member beyond said second end.

32. (Currently Amended) The invention set forth in claim 3051, wherein the protrusion includes opposed exterior sides which are adapted to become wedged between opposed interior sides of the notch to restrict disengagement of the slider member from the interlocking fastening strip when the slider member is moved toward the first end thereof.

33. (Currently Amended) The invention set forth in claim 3051, wherein the notch of the slider member is formed in the intermediate body portion thereof.

34-41. (Cancel)

42. (Cancel)

43. (Cancel)

44. (Currently Amended) The invention set forth in claim 4347, wherein the opposed interior sides of the notch is substantially parallel with respect to each other.

45. (Currently Amended) The invention set forth in claim 4347, wherein the intermediate portion and the opposed interior sides of the notch are substantially planar.

46. (Currently Amended) The invention set forth in claim 4347, wherein the intermediate portion and the opposed interior sides of the notch have generally rectangular configurations.

47. (Currently Amended) A storage container comprising:
a pair of complementary sheets;
a first fastening strip disposed along an edge portion of one sheet;
a second fastening strip disposed along an edge portion of the other sheet and
disposed to interlockingly engage the first fastening strip; and
a slider member movably disposed upon the first and second fastening strips, the
slider member facilitating the occlusion of the interlocking fastening when moved
towards a first end thereof, the slider member having a pair of spaced-apart side walls
which are positioned on opposite sides of the interlocking fastening strips, an
intermediate body portion between the two side walls which is positioned upon the

interlocking fastening strips, and a notch formed therewith which engages a cooperating protrusion formed on the interlocking fastening strip at a first end thereof to obstruct movement of the slider member beyond said first end;

wherein the notch has a generally rectangular configuration and a pair of opposed interior sides and an intermediate portion therebetween. The invention set forth in claim 43, wherein the intermediate portion and the opposed interior sides of the notch converge along substantially vertical internal corners.

48. (Currently Amended) The invention set forth in claim 4347, wherein the intermediate portion of the notch includes substantially vertical external corners.

49. (Cancel)

50. (Cancel)

51. (Currently Amended) A storage container comprising:
a pair of complementary sheets;
a first fastening strip disposed along an edge portion of one sheet;
a second fastening strip disposed along an edge portion of the other sheet and
disposed to interlockingly engage the first fastening strip; and
a slider member movably disposed upon the first and second fastening strips, the
slider member facilitating the occlusion of the interlocking fastening when moved
towards a first end thereof, the slider member having a pair of spaced-apart side walls
which are positioned on opposite sides of the interlocking fastening strips, an
intermediate body portion between the two side walls which is positioned upon the
interlocking fastening strips, and a notch formed therein which engages a cooperating
protrusion formed on the interlocking fastening strip at a first end thereof to obstruct
movement of the slider member beyond said first end;

wherein the protrusion is substantially planar and has a pair of opposed exterior sides and an edge portion therebetween. The invention set forth in claim 50, wherein the edge portion of the protrusion is inclined with respect to the interlocking fastening strip.

52. (Original) The invention set forth in claim 51, wherein the edge portion of the protrusion slopes upwardly and outwardly with respect to the interlocking fastening strip.

53. (Currently Amended) A storage container comprising:
a pair of complementary sheets;
a first fastening strip disposed along an edge portion of one sheet;
a second fastening strip disposed along an edge portion of the other sheet and
disposed to interlockingly engage the first fastening strip; and
a slider member movably disposed upon the first and second fastening strips, the
slider member facilitating the occlusion of the interlocking fastening when moved
towards a first end thereof, the slider member having a pair of spaced-apart side walls
which are positioned on opposite sides of the interlocking fastening strips, an
intermediate body portion between the two side walls which is positioned upon the
interlocking fastening strips, and a notch formed therein which engages a cooperating
protrusion formed on the interlocking fastening strip at a first end thereof to obstruct
movement of the slider member beyond said first end;
wherein the protrusion is substantially planar and has a pair of opposed exterior sides and
an edge portion therebetween. The invention set forth in claim 50, wherein the opposed
exterior sides of the protrusion are substantially parallel with respect to each other.

54-56. (Cancel)

57. (Currently Amended) The invention set forth in claim 5558, wherein the opposed exterior sides of the protrusion flare outwardly with respect to each other and the interlocking fastening strip.

58. (Currently Amended) A storage container comprising:
a pair of complementary sheets;
a first fastening strip disposed along an edge portion of one sheet;
a second fastening strip disposed along an edge portion of the other sheet and
disposed to interlockingly engage the first fastening strip; and
a slider member movably disposed upon the first and second fastening strips, the
slider member facilitating the occlusion of the interlocking fastening when moved
towards a first end thereof, the slider member having a pair of spaced-apart side walls
which are positioned on opposite sides of the interlocking fastening strips, an
intermediate body portion between the two side walls which is positioned upon the
interlocking fastening strips, and a notch formed therein which engages a cooperating
protrusion formed on the interlocking fastening strip at a first end thereof to obstruct
movement of the slider member beyond said first end; and
wherein the protrusion formed on the interlocking fastening strip has a pair of
opposed exterior sides and an edge portion therebetween and has a generally wedge-
shaped configuration. The invention set forth in claim 56, wherein the edge portion of
the protrusion slopes upwardly and outwardly with respect to the interlocking fastening
strip.

59. (Cancel)

60. (Currently Amended) The invention as in claim 5976 wherein the slider
member includes a second notch which is adapted to engage a second protrusion formed
on one of the interlocking fastening strips at a second end thereof to obstruct movement
of the slider member beyond said second end.

61. (Currently Amended) The invention set forth in claim 5976, wherein the
protrusion includes opposed exterior sides which are adapted to become wedged between

opposed interior sides of the notch to restrict disengagement of the slider member from the interlocking fastening strip when the slider member is moved toward the first end thereof.

62. (Currently Amended) The invention set forth in claim 5976, wherein the notch of the slider member is formed in the intermediate body portion thereof.

63-70. (Cancel)

71. (Cancel)

72. (Cancel)

73. (Currently Amended) The invention set forth in claim 7276, wherein the opposed interior sides of the notch is substantially parallel with respect to each other.

74. (Currently Amended) The invention set forth in claim 7276, wherein the intermediate portion and the opposed interior sides of the notch are substantially planar.

75. (Currently Amended) The invention set forth in claim 7276, wherein the intermediate portion and the opposed interior sides of the notch have generally rectangular configurations.

76. (Currently Amended) A slider member for facilitating occlusion of interlocking fastening strips when moved towards the first end of the fastening strips, the slider member comprising:

a pair of spaced-apart side walls which are adapted to be installed on opposite sides of interlocking fastening strips;

an intermediate body portion between the side walls which is adapted to be installed upon interlocking fastening strips; and

a notch formed therein which is adapted to engage a cooperating protrusion formed on interlocking fastening strip at a first end thereof to obstruct movement of the slider member beyond said first end;

wherein the notch has a generally rectangular configuration and a pair of opposed interior sides and an intermediate portion therebetween. The invention set forth in claim 72, wherein the intermediate portion and the opposed interior sides of the notch converge along substantially vertical internal corners.

77. (Currently Amended) The invention set forth in claim 72/6, wherein the intermediate portion of the notch includes substantially vertical external corners.

78. (Cancel)

79. (Cancel)

80. (Currently Amended) A slider member for facilitating occlusion of interlocking fastening strips when moved towards the first end of the fastening strips, the slider member comprising:

a pair of spaced-apart side walls which are adapted to be installed on opposite sides of interlocking fastening strips;

an intermediate body portion between the side walls which is adapted to be installed upon interlocking fastening strips; and

a notch formed therein which is adapted to engage a cooperating protrusion formed on interlocking fastening strip at a first end thereof to obstruct movement of the slider member beyond said first end;

wherein the protrusion is substantially planar and has a pair of opposed exterior sides and an edge portion therebetween. The invention set forth in claim 79, wherein the edge portion of the protrusion is inclined with respect to the interlocking fastening strip.

81. (Original) The invention set forth in claim 80, wherein the edge portion of the protrusion slopes upwardly and outwardly with respect to the interlocking fastening strip.

82. (Cancel)

83. (Currently Amended) The invention set forth in claim 7980, wherein the opposed exterior sides of the protrusion are generally triangular in configuration.

84. (Cancel)

85. (Cancel)

86. (Currently Amended) A slider member for facilitating occlusion of interlocking fastening strips when moved towards the first end of the fastening strips, the slider member comprising:

a pair of spaced-apart side walls which are adapted to be installed on opposite sides of interlocking fastening strips;

an intermediate body portion between the side walls which is adapted to be installed upon interlocking fastening strips; and

a notch formed therein which is adapted to engage a cooperating protrusion formed on interlocking fastening strip at a first end thereof to obstruct movement of the slider member beyond said first end;

wherein the protrusion formed on the interlocking fastening strip has a generally wedge-shaped configuration and a pair of opposed exterior sides and an edge portion therebetween. The invention set forth in claim 84, wherein the opposed exterior sides of the protrusion flare outwardly with respect to each other and the interlocking fastening strip.

87. (Currently Amended) The invention set forth in claim ~~8586~~, wherein the edge portion of the protrusion slopes upwardly and outwardly with respect to the interlocking fastening strip.

88-92. (Cancel)

93. (New) The invention as in claim 22, wherein the slider member includes a second notch which is adapted to engage a second protrusion formed on one of the interlocking fastening strips at a second end thereof to obstruct movement of the slider member beyond said second end.

94. (New) The invention set forth in claim 22, wherein the protrusion includes opposed exterior sides which are adapted to become wedged between opposed interior sides of the notch to restrict disengagement of the slider member from the interlocking fastening strip when the slider member is moved toward the first end thereof.

95. (New) The invention set forth in claim 22, wherein the notch of the slider member is formed in the intermediate body portion thereof.

96. (New) The invention as in claim 29, wherein the slider member includes a second notch which is adapted to engage a second protrusion formed on one of the interlocking fastening strips at a second end thereof to obstruct movement of the slider member beyond said second end.

97. (New) The invention set forth in claim 29, wherein the protrusion includes opposed exterior sides which are adapted to become wedged between opposed interior sides of the notch to restrict disengagement of the slider member from the interlocking fastening strip when the slider member is moved toward the first end thereof.

98. (New) The invention set forth in claim 29, wherein the notch of the slider member is formed in the intermediate body portion thereof.

99. (New) The invention as in claim 58, wherein the slider member includes a second notch which is adapted to engage a second protrusion formed on one of the interlocking fastening strips at a second end thereof to obstruct movement of the slider member beyond said second end.

100. (New) The invention set forth in claim 58, wherein the protrusion includes opposed exterior sides which are adapted to become wedged between opposed interior sides of the notch to restrict disengagement of the slider member from the interlocking fastening strip when the slider member is moved toward the first end thereof.

101. (New) The invention set forth in claim 58, wherein the notch of the slider member is formed in the intermediate body portion thereof.

102. (New) The invention as in claim 80, wherein the slider member includes a second notch which is adapted to engage a second protrusion formed on one of the interlocking fastening strips at a second end thereof to obstruct movement of the slider member beyond said second end.

103. (New) The invention set forth in claim 80, wherein the protrusion includes opposed exterior sides which are adapted to become wedged between opposed interior sides of the notch to restrict disengagement of the slider member from the interlocking fastening strip when the slider member is moved toward the first end thereof.

104. (New) The invention set forth in claim 80, wherein the notch of the slider member is formed in the intermediate body portion thereof.

105. (New) The invention as in claim 86, wherein the slider member includes a second notch which is adapted to engage a second protrusion formed on one of the interlocking fastening strips at a second end thereof to obstruct movement of the slider member beyond said second end.

106. (New) The invention set forth in claim 86, wherein the protrusion includes opposed exterior sides which are adapted to become wedged between opposed interior sides of the notch to restrict disengagement of the slider member from the interlocking fastening strip when the slider member is moved toward the first end thereof.

107. (New) The invention set forth in claim 86, wherein the notch of the slider member is formed in the intermediate body portion thereof.

REMARKS

The Pending Claims

Currently pending are independent claims 18, 22, 29, 47, 51, 58, 76, 80 and 86 and dependent claims 2-4, 15-17, 19, 23-25, 28, 31-33, 44-46, 48, 52-53, 57, 60-62, 73-75, 77, 81, 83, 87 and new claims 93-107. Claims 1, 5-14, 20-21, 26-27, 30, 34-43, 49-50, 54-56, 59, 63-72, 78-79, 82, 84-85 and 88-92 are cancelled without prejudice by this amendment. Applicant retains the right to pursue these claims in a continuation application.

Summary of the Office Action

Claims 1, 3-8, 10, 11, 13, 14, 16, 17, 19-21, 25-28, 30, 32-37, 39, 40, 42, 43, 45, 46, 48, 50, 54-57, 59, 61-66, 68, 69, 71, 72, 74, 75, 77-79, 83-85 and 87 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 (b) as being anticipated by Herrington et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,189,764). Claims 2, 9, 12, 15, 24, 31, 38, 41, 44, 53, 60, 67, 70, 73 and 82 stand rejected as being unpatentable over Herrington. Claims 18, 22, 23, 29, 47, 51, 53, 58, 76, 80, 81 and 86 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but are indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Summary of the Amendments

Applicants acknowledge and appreciate the indication of allowable subject matter.

Claim 18 has been amended to include all the limitations of base claim 1 and intervening claims 13 and 14.

Claim 22 has been amended to include all the limitations of base claim 1 and intervening claims 20 and 21. New claims 93-95 have been added to depend from now independent claim 22. Support for new claims 93-95 can be found in original claims 2-4.

Claim 29 has been amended to include all the limitations of base claim 1 and intervening claims 26 and 27. New claims 96-98 have been added to depend from now independent claim 29. Support for new claims 96-98 can be found in original claims 2-4.

Claim 47 has been amended to include all the limitations of base claim 30 and intervening claims 42 and 43.

Claim 51 has been amended to include all the limitations of base claim 30 and intervening claims 49 and 50.

Claim 53 has been amended to include all the limitations of base claim 30 and intervening claims 49 and 50.

Claim 58 has been amended to include all the limitations of base claim 30 and intervening claims 55 and 56. New claims 99-101 have been added to depend from now independent claim 58. Support for new claims 99-101 can be found in original claims 31-33.

Claim 76 has been amended to include all the limitations of base claim 59 and intervening claims 71 and 72.

Claim 80 has been amended to include all the limitations of base claim 59 and intervening claims 78 and 79. New claims 102-104 have been added to depend from now independent claim 80. Support for new claims 102-104 can be found in original claims 60-62.

Claim 86 has been amended to include all the limitations of base claim 59 and intervening claims 84 and 85. New claims 105-107 have been added to depend from now independent claim 86. Support for new claims 105-107 can be found in original claims 60-62.

Discussion of the Prior Art Rejections

Applicant respectfully submits that there are substantial differences between the applied references, US Patent No. 5,189,764 to Herrington and Applicant's claimed invention. However, to expedite the prosecution of the subject matter that the Office Action indicates is allowable, Applicant has made the cancellations and amendments to the claims indicated above.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant submits that the application is in condition for allowance. If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of the subject application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney. An early and favorable consideration of this Response is earnestly and respectfully solicited.

In the unlikely event that the Patent Office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required as a result of this response, Applicant petitions for any required relief including extensions of time and authorize the Assistant Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due to Deposit Account No. 03-2270. However, the Assistant Commissioner is not authorized to charge the cost of the issue fee to the Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

/Ann M. Lee/
Ann M. Lee
Reg. No. 47,741
Customer No.: 27019
Attorney for Applicant
The Glad Products Company
P.O. Box 24305
Oakland, CA 94623
Telephone: (510) 271-3136
Facsimile: (510) 271-1652

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